



THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF BENIN REPUBLIC

The Republic of Benin operates on a **6-4-3-4** system:

Primary School	6 years
Junior High School	4 years
Senior High School	3 years
Licence	3 years
Maitrise	1 year

Languages: The official language and language of instruction in Benin is French. Since the advent of Democracy in 1990 the English language has been breaking grounds and American English has come to be the mode of English that students, teachers and businessmen and women are striving to identify with.

The Educational System Structure

Education is compulsory for children aged between six and eleven. It takes six years for them to complete and take the Primary school certificate. A total of seven years is required to complete both Junior and Senior High School. At the end of the four years of Junior High school (10th grade), the student has to take the **Brevet d'Études du Premier Cycle: BEPC**. Then after three additional years (13th grade) the students have to take the **Baccalaureat: BAC** exam, which is the equivalent of the US High School Diploma. In addition to academic secondary schools, there is a system of technical and agricultural education leading to a separate set of credentials.

The grading system is the same at all levels of the educational system. Grades are on a 20-point scale. The following chart shows the approximate equivalents in the American system:

GRADE POINT PER UNIT	LETTER GRADE	QUALITY ASSESSMENT	
		FRENCH	ENGLISH
16.1 – over	A+	Excellent	With distinction
15.1 – 16	A	Très - bien	Outstanding/Very good
14.1 – 15	A-	Bien	Good
13.1 – 14	B+		
12.1 – 13	B	Assez - bien	Fairly good
11.1 – 12	B-		
10.1 – 11	C+	Passable	Satisfactory
09.1 – 10	C	Acceptable	Average
08.1 – 09	C-	Insuffisant	Below average
07.1 – 08	D	Médiocre	Insufficient/Mediocre
00 - 07	F	Faible	Fail

The core program for the first two years of secondary school is pretty much the same for every student. The subjects offered include: French, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, Natural Science, History and Geography, English, Home Economics, Second Foreign Language (German or Spanish), Introduction to Computer, Sports. From the third year, some subjects of the core program are more emphasized to give three options at the end-of-cycle exam:

- Literary option (Moderne long): here, languages are given a higher multiplying factor or coefficient.

- Scientific option (Moderne court): higher coefficients go to mathematics, physics and chemistry. The Second Foreign Language is dropped.
- Classical option (Classic): Latin and Greek are added to other languages.

At the end of the first “cycle” all the students sit for the BREVET ELEMENTAIRE DU PREMIER cycle (B.E.P.C.), which is a qualifying exam for the second “cycle.” However, a student who has failed BEPC but successfully completed the fourth year of the first “cycle” can still make it to the second “cycle” of the secondary school education. The courses in the second “cycle” remain the same with the addition of Philosophy. Studies are organized in four sections giving the student four options at the BACCALAUREAT exam (or BAC), which is the High School Diploma. The four options are:

- 1- Literature:
 - BAC (A1), where the highest coefficient goes to French (5), then (4) to each of the following: Philosophy, English, History and Geography.
 - BAC (A2), same as above but here, the highest coefficient goes to History and Geography (5).
- 2- Economics BAC (B), the highest coefficient is in Economics (5).
- 3- Mathematics BAC (C), Math, Physical science and Chemistry (6 each).
- 4- Biology BAC (D), Biology (5), Math, Physics and Chemistry (4 each).

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

The University of Benin is centered on three main campuses: Abomey Calavi; Cotonou; and Porto-Novo. It is divided into four types of faculties: General Education; Professional and Technical; Post/Para University Institutions; and Teacher Training Schools. The better known among these include:

The Faculty of Economics and Management (FASEG)
 The Faculty of Law and Political Science (FADESP)
 The Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FLASH)
 The Faculty of Science and Technology (FAST)
 The Faculty of Health Science (FSS)
 The Faculty of Agricultural Science (FSA)

The University of Parakou (UNIPAR) is Benin's newest university, established in the last decade.

Other higher education institutions:

National Institute of Economics (I.N.E.)
 National School of Administration (E.N.A.)
 National Institute of Physical and Sports Education (I.N.E.E.P.S.)
 National School of Social Workers (E.N.A.S.)
 Beninese Center of Foreign Languages (CE.BE.LA.E.)
 Regional Institute of Public Health (I.R.S.P.)
 The School of Applied Economics and Management (ENEAM)
 The National School of Administration and Prosecutor Training (ENAM)
 The Polytechnical School of Abomey Calavi (EPAC)
 The Teachers' Training School of Porto-Novo (ENS)
 The Institute of Mathematics and Physics (IMSP)

TESTING:

TOEFL iBT and GRE are administered at the U.S. Embassy's EducationUSA Advising Center. The SAT is administered at two locations and on all six annual test dates. We look forward to organizing the GMAT.

EDUCATIONAL ADVISING

The Educational Advising Center in Benin is sponsored by the Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy and serves more 2000 students and parents per year.

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